NUMB. XXXVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

——*Prodire tenus ſi non datur Ultrà.* Hor.

Friday, April 24. 1713.

I Have lately given a *Precaution* concerning the Difficulty in arriving at what ought to be eſteemed a *Fine Gentleman*. That Character has been long wholly engroſſed by well-dreſt Beaus, and Men of Senſe have given up all Pretence to it. The higheſt any of them contend for is the Character of a *pretty Gentleman*; for here the Dreſs may be more careleſs, and ſome Wit is thought neceſſary, whereas a *fine Gentleman* is not obliged to converſe further than the offering his Snuff-box round the Room. However, the *pretty Gentleman* muſt have his Airs, and tho' they are not ſo pompous as thoſe of the other, yet they are ſo affected, that few who have Underſtanding can bring themſelves to be Proficients this way, though ever ſo uſeful towards being well received; but if they fail here, they ſucceed with ſome difficulty in being allowed to have *much of the Gentleman* in them: To obtain this Epithet, a Man of Senſe muſt arrive at a certain deſire to appear more than is natural to him; but as the World goes, it is fit he ſhould be encouraged in this Attempt, ſince nothing can mend the general Taſte, but ſetting the true Character in as publick a View as the falſe. This indeed can never be done to the purpoſe, while the Majority is ſo great on the wrong ſide; one of a hundred will have the Shout againſt him; but if People of Wit would be as zealous to aſſiſt old *Ironſide*, as he is to promote them and their Intereſt, a little time would give theſe things a new Turn. However, I will not deſpair but I ſhall be able to ſummon all the good Senſe in the Nation to my Aſſiſtance, in my Ambition to produce a new Race of Mankind, to take the Places of ſuch as have hitherto pretended to engroſs the Faſhion. The Univerſity Scholar ſhall be called upon to learn his Exerciſe, and frequent mixt Company; the Military and the Travelled Man, to read the beſt Authors; the Country Gentleman, to divide his Time, ſo as, together with the care of his Eſtate, to make an equal Progreſs in Learning and Breeding; and when the ſeveral Candidates think themſelves prepared, I ſhall appoint Under Officers to examine their Qualifications, and as I am ſatisfied with their Report, give out my Paſſports recommending them to all Companies as *the Guardian's fine Gentlemen*. If my Recommendations appear juſt, I will not doubt but ſome of the preſent *fine Gentlemen* will ſee the Neceſſity of Retirement, till they can come abroad with Approbation. I have indeed already given out Orders in his behalf, and have directed Searchers to attend at the Inns, where the *Oxford* and *Cambridge* Coaches ſtand, and commanded them to bring any young Fellow, of any Hopes in the World, directly to my Lodgings as ſoon as he Lands, for I will take him tho' I know I can only make him *much of a Gentleman*; for when I have gone thus far one would think it ſhould be eaſie to make him a *Gentleman-like Man*. As the World now goes, we have no adequate Idea of what is meant by *Gentlemanly*, *Gentleman-like*, or *much of a Gentleman*; you can't be cheated at Play, but it is certainly done by *a very Gentleman-like Man*; you can't be deceiv'd in your Affairs, but it was done in ſome *Gentlemanly Manner*; you can't be wronged in your Bed, but all the World will ſay of

(Price Two Pence.)

of him that did the Injury, it muſt be allowed *is very much of a Gentleman*. Here is a very pleaſant Fellow, a Correſpondent of mine, that puts in for that Appellation even to High-way Men; I muſt confeſs the Gentleman he perſonates is very apparently ſuch, tho' I did not look upon that ſort of Fellow in that Light, till he favoured me with his Letter, which is as follows.

Mr. IRONSIDE,

'I Have been upon the High-way theſe ſix Years, 'in the *Park*, at the *Play*, at *Bath*, *Tunbridge*, '*Epſom*, and at every other Place where I could 'have any Proſpect of ſtealing a Fortune; but have 'met with no Succeſs, being diſappointed either by 'ſome of your damned *Ironſide* Race, or by old 'curſed Curs, who put more Bolts on their Doors 'and Bars in their Windows than are in *Newgate*. 'All that ſee me own I am *a Gentleman-like Man*; 'and whatever raſcally things the Grave Folks ſay I 'am guilty of, they themſelves acknowledge I am 'a *Gentlemanly kind of Man*, and in every reſpect 'accompliſhed for running away with a Lady. I 'have been bred up to no Buſineſs, am Illiterate, 'have ſpent the ſmall Fortune I had in purchaſing 'Favours from the Fair Sex: The Bounty of their 'Purſes I have received, as well as the Endearments 'of their Perſons, but I have gratefully diſpoſed of 'it among themſelves, for I always was a Keeper 'when I was kept. I am fearleſs in my Behaviour, and never fail of putting your Bookiſh ſort 'of Fellows, your Men of Merit forſooth, out of 'Countenance. I triumph when I ſee a modeſt 'young Woman Bluſh at an Aſſembly, or a Virgin betray'd into Tears at a well-wrought Scene 'in a Tragedy. I have long forgot Shame, for 'it proceeds from a Conſciouſneſs of ſome Defect, and I am, as I told you, *a Gentlemanly 'Man*. I never knew any but you muſty Philoſophers applaud Bluſhes, and you your ſelves will allow that they are cauſed, either by ſome 'real Imperfection, or the Apprehenſion of Defect 'where there is not any; but for my part I hate 'Miſtakes, and ſhall not ſuſpect my ſelf wrongfully. Such as I am, if you approve of my Perſon, Eſtate and Character, I deſire you would admit me as a Suiter to one of the *Lizards*, and beg your ſpeedy Anſwer to this; for it is the laſt time my black Coat will bear Scowring, or my long Wig Buckling. *I am*,

SIR,

The Fair Ladies, and

Your humble Servant,

Will. Bareface.

Thoſe on the High-way, who make a Stand with a Piſtol at your Breaſt, (compelled perhaps by Neceſſity, Misfortune, or driven out of an honeſt Way of Life, to anſwer the Wants of a craving Family) are much more excuſable than thoſe of their Fraternity, who join the Converſations of Gentlemen, and get into a ſhare of their Fortunes without one good Art about them. What a Croud of theſe *Gentlemen-like Men* are about this Town? For from an unjuſt Modeſty, and Incapacity for Common-Life, the ordinary Failings of Men of Letters and Induſtry in our Nation, it happens that Impudence ſuppreſſes all Virtue, and aſſumes the Reward and Eſteem which are due to it. Hence it is that worthleſs Rogues have the Smiles of the Fair, and the Favour of the Great: To be well dreſſed, and in Health, and very impudent, in this licentious undiſtinguiſhing Age, is enough to conſtitute a Perſon *very much of a Gentleman*; and to this Paſs are we come, by the Proſtitution of Wit in the Cauſe of Vice, which has made the moſt unreaſonable and unnatural things prevail againſt all the Suggeſtions of Common Senſe: No body denies that we live in a Chriſtian Country, and yet he who ſhould decline, upon reſpective Opportunities, to commit Adultery or Murder, would be thought *very little of a Gentleman*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By SUBSCRIPTION.

At the ſecond Performance.

At Mr. Hickford's Great Dancing Room over againſt the Tennis Court in James-ſtreet near the Hay-market, this Day being the 24th of April will be perform'd a Conſort of Muſick, Vocal and Inſtrumental, by Signor Nicolino Haym, and others. Conſiſting of ſeveral Entertainments of Singing by the Baroneſs, and another Scholar of Signor Haym, who never appeared in Publick. With ſeveral other Entertainments by ſome of the beſt Performers who are at this preſent time here in England. The Tickets will be delivered out at Mrs. White's Chocolate Houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, this Day, at two Guineas, Each Subſcriber to have but two Tickets each time for four times. To begin exactly at 6 of the Clock.

On Monday next will be Publiſh'd,

Cato, a Tragedy. Written by Mr. Addiſon. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

A Spaniſh bay Stone-Horſe, with a new Houſing and Bags, embroidered, fringed, and laced with Silver on a Scarlet Cloth, value 40 Guineas, to be Raffled for at Mr. Boman's Chocolate-Houſe in Bridges ſtreet Covent-Garden, on Monday the 27th Inſtant at 5 a Clock in the Evening. Each Subſcriber to pay a Guinea, to Mr. Boman, at the time of ſubſcribing.

To be Sold, by Wholeſale or Retale,

Fifty Hogſheads of excellent new French Claret and White Wine, of the true Flavour, newly landed, to compare with any Parcel. To encourage a quick Sale, will be Sold from eighteen to twenty Pounds per Hogſhead, and by the Gallon at ſeven Shillings. Note, Incouragement will be given to thoſe that take a Quantity. Any Gentleman or Retailer, ſending a Penny-Poſt Letter or Servant to the French Wine-Vault under Skinner's Hall in Bow Lane, may be ſupplyed with Care. Conſtant Attendance being given.

The famous Spaniſh Blacking for Gentlemens Shoes that ever was Invented or uſed; it making them always look like new, never daubs the Hands in putting on, or ſoils the Stockings in wearing; neither has it the ordinary Gloſs of German Balls, or the intolerable noiſome Stink of Size, but is of an agreeable Scent. It indeed makes the Shoes look extreamly neat, and mightily preſerves the Leather: All that uſe it admire it, and thoſe that once try it will never uſe any thing elſe. Sold for 1s. 6d. the Pot with Directions, (which will laſt 3 or 4 Months) only at Mr. John Hantam's, a Toy-ſhop at the Three Angels near Foſter-lane in Cheapſide.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*, where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.